

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
a host transmitting a first signal to a first device coupled with a second device;
in response to the first signal, the second device ~~inserting~~ transmitting a second signal ~~into~~ transmitted to the host prior to transmission of a third signal from the first device to the host;
the host detecting a presence of the second device, in response to receipt of the second signal if the host is of a first set of hosts; and
the host ignoring the second signal if the host is of a second set of hosts.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the second device is a fail over switch.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
the host transmitting the second signal to the first device; and
the host receiving a second signal from the first device.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, performed during a handshake initialization sequence between the host and the first device.
5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the second signal is a Serial ATA out of band (OOB) signal.
6. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the fail-over switch is a Serial ATA fail over switch.
7. (Currently Amended) A machine-accessible medium that provides instructions that, if executed by a machine, will cause said machine to perform operations comprising:

a host transmitting a first signal to a first device coupled with a second device,
the second device being a fail over switch that provides two paths between the host and the first device;

the second device ~~inserting~~ transmitting a second signal ~~into~~ to the host prior to transmission of a third signal from the first device to the host;

the host identifying a presence of the second device, in response to receipt of the second signal;

the host receiving a third signal from the first device;

the host transmitting the second signal to the first device; and

the host receiving the second signal from the first device.

8. (Original) The machine-accessible medium of claim 7, wherein the operations are performed during a handshake initialization sequence between the host and the first device.

9. (Original) The machine-accessible medium of claim 7, wherein the second signal is a Serial ATA out of band (OOB) signal.

10. (Original) The machine-accessible medium of claim 7, wherein the medium is one of an internal logic of a circuit and an internal state machine of a circuit.

11. (Previously Presented) A machine-accessible medium that provides instructions that, if executed by a machine, will cause said machine to perform operations comprising:

a host transmitting a COMRESET to a device coupled with a switch;

the host receiving a COMWAKE originating from the switch;

the host identifying a presence of the switch, in response to receipt of the COMWAKE;

the host receiving a COMINIT from the device;

the host transmitting the COMWAKE to the device; and

the host receiving the COMWAKE from the device.

12. (Original) The machine-accessible medium of claim 11, wherein the operations are performed during a handshake initialization sequence between the host and the device.
13. (Original) The machine-accessible medium of claim 11, wherein the medium is one of an internal logic of a circuit and an internal state machine of a circuit.
14. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:
 - a processor; and
 - a machine-accessible medium that provides instructions that, if executed by the processor, will cause the processor to perform operations comprising:
 - transmit a COMRESET to a device coupled with a fail over switch;
 - receive a COMWAKE originating from the fail over switch;
 - identify a presence of the fail over switch, in response to receipt of the COMWAKE;
 - receive a COMINIT from the device;
 - transmit the COMWAKE to the device; and
 - receive the COMWAKE from the device.
15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the fail-over switch is a Serial ATA fail over switch.
16. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the operations are performed during a handshake initialization sequence between the system and the device.
17. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the medium is one of an internal logic of a circuit and an internal state machine of a circuit.
18. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
 - a processor;
 - a network connection; and

a machine-accessible medium that provides instructions that, if executed by a machine, will cause said machine to perform operations comprising:

transmitting a first signal to a first device coupled with a second device, the second device being a fail over switch that provides two paths for the first signal to the first device;

~~inserting-transmitting~~ a second signal ~~into to the host prior to~~ transmission of a third signal from the first device;

identifying a presence of the second device, in response to receipt of the second signal;

receiving the third signal from the first device;

transmitting the second signal to the first device; and

receiving the second signal from the first device.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the second device is a fail over switch.

20. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the operations are performed during a handshake initialization sequence between the system and the first device.

21. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the medium is one of an internal logic of a circuit and an internal state machine of a circuit.

22. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a host controller that initiates a handshake initialization sequence;

a serial ATA device that participates in the handshake initialization sequence;

and

a fail over switch that provides for ~~two paths~~ a first path and a second path between the host controller and the serial ATA device, the second path to be utilized when the first path fails, the fail over switch ~~inserts-transmits~~ an out of band signal ~~into a communication from the serial ATA device to the host controller during the handshake initialization sequence,~~ the out of band signal notifies the host controller that

a switch between the ~~two paths~~ first path and the second path of the fail over switch has occurred.